

Application No. 10/021,935
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the controller section controls the apparatus to print the application data on a front surface of a sheet and to print the user identification information and the page information on the back surface of the sheet, wherein the front surface is a surface on which printing is performed during one-surface printing, and the back surface is opposite to the front surface and faces upward when the printed sheet is outputted. In addition, independent method claim 13 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1.

Independent claim 7, moreover, has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the controller section controls the apparatus to print the application data on a front surface of a sheet and to print the identification information assigned to the application data along with the page information on a back surface of the sheet, wherein the front surface is a surface on which printing is performed during one-surface printing, and the back surface is opposite to the front surface and faces upward when the printed sheet is

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outputted. And independent method claim 19 has been amended in a manner similar to independent apparatus claim 7.

Still further, claims 3-5, 9-11, 15-17 and 21-23 have been amended to better accord with their respective amended parent claims, and claim 12 has been amended to correct a minor antecedent basis problem.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19 and 21-23 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,316,279 ("Corona et al") and "Microsoft Corporation Notepad," and, while not specifically rejected, claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-24 appear to be rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Corona et al, "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" and previously cited USP 6,055,361 ("Fujita et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, the application data is printed on a front surface of a sheet and the user identification information and the page information (claims 1 and 13) or the

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identification information assigned to the application data along with the page information (claims 7 and 19) are printed on a back surface of the sheet. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the front surface is a surface on which printing is performed during one-surface printing, and that the back surface is opposite to the front surface and faces upward when the printed sheet is outputted.

With this structure, no cover sheet is necessary to print identification information and page information.

By contrast, according to Corona et al, job set identification information is printed on a cover sheet, which is different from the printed sheets of a print job, rather than on the backs of the printed sheets.

In addition, according to Corona et al, the cover sheet may be outputted with the printed side facing upward. However, as defined in the amended independent claims, the front surface of the sheet is the surface on which printing is performed during one-surface printing. Thus, Corona et al discloses printing information on the front surface of a sheet, and that the sheet may be outputted with the front surface facing upward.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in the amended independent claims, the identification and page information is printed on the back surface, which is opposite to

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the front surface and which faces upward when the printed sheet is outputted.

As recognized by the Examiner, "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" discloses printing a page number on each printed paper sheet. However, this information is printed on the image-printed surface of a sheet. Accordingly, in face-down printing in which the surface of a paper sheet with an image printed thereon by one-side printing is discharged to the sheet-receiving section, the surface with a page number printed thereon does not face upward.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that if the teachings of Corona et al and "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the logical result would be printing a job with page numbers on the image-printed surfaces of the sheets as in "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" and printing a separate cover sheet to identify the print job as in Corona et al. And it is respectfully submitted that there would be no motivation to move the page numbers of "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" to the back surfaces of the sheets, or to print the job identification information on the back surfaces of the printed sheets instead of on a cover sheet, since neither Corona et al nor "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" suggests such features.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, as well as each of claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-24 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Corona et al and "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" and all of the other prior art of record, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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